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Documents Relating to El Destino and Chemonie Plantations, Middle Florida, 1828-1868. Part III

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DOCUMENTS RELATING TO EL DESTINO AND
CHEMONIE PLANTATIONS, MIDDLE
FLORIDA, 1828-1868. Part III

THE EL DESTINO MILL

One of the most interesting as well as the most elusive aspects of El Destino life was the mill plant. A few years after George Noble Jones came into possession of his Florida holdings, he undertook to establish his own mills. The facilities for the project were near at hand, for the plantation was heavily wooded and water-power was available from Burnt Mill Creek¹ and the St. Marks River, both of which flowed through his property. By 1850 the enterprise had been started ; it consisted of a dam, of somewhat imposing size for its day and locality, and a tailrace canal running from the site of the dam to the river². The period of construction covered several years³ and absorbed a goodly number of laborers. As neither El Destino nor Chemonie could provide this force, negroes were hired from the neighboring planters⁴ and, according to local reports, even Irish labor was engaged. The undertaking had not been without its picturesque side, however, for while the men made the excavations, the women hauled away the dirt and a corps of pick-aninnies acted as water-boys. Whenever Jones was in Florida, he was in the habit of spending much time at

¹ There had been an earlier mill erected on the creek known as Taylor's Mill. This had been destroyed by the Indians before the days of the Jones regime.

² According to Major Robert White, Jones's agent in Florida, the canal was well started by the summer of 1850. One would infer from his letters that the dam was at least partially built at this time.

³ See I. of the appended documents: Roberson to Jones, July 9, 1852.

⁴ Uncle Dumps is able to give the names of the planters who hired some of their negroes to Jones for this purpose.

the dam or riding up and down the canal on horse-back inspecting the operations and encouraging the hands.

To determine the location of the mill is not easy. In the eastern part of the plantation there are clear evidences of a mill and mill pond. According to Uncle Demps, who was a water-boy at the time of the construction of the dam and who has lived on the plantation ever since, this was a second mill built by the "boys", as he calls the sons of George Noble Jones, after the War for Southern Independence. The first or "Big Mill", to continue the story of the old negro, was located about a mile or so from the dam across the St. Augustine road. There is no mention made in any of the surviving documents of the exact location of the mill. In most instances, however, the site designated by Uncle Demps is borne out in the descriptions of the work carried on and the events occurring. The testimony of certain residents of the region seem to confirm this position⁵.

The "Big Mill" was not a single mill but rather a group of industrial enterprises. There was a saw mill which operated three saws after it was completed; also, two grist mills and a shingle mill. The plantation shops were erected at the same place. These consisted of blacksmith and carpenter shops, a cooperage, and, some time prior to 1861, a tannery. It was no unheardof thing for a plantation to have its own mill,

⁵ Roberson's house was quite clearly located on the St. Augustine road by the railroad survey mentioned in one of his letters. If the mill were located at the second site, the house of the millwright would be a mile or two distant. Both Uncle Demps and a Mr. Hightower, a resident of that region, state that one might see the traces of the old mill if it were possible to get through the underbrush of Burnt Mill Creek. The description of the construction of the mill contained in Roberson's letters has passages which support both locations. There seems no way of definitely proving the point. The map of the plantation contained in *Florida Plantation Records* gives only the site of the supposed second mill.

but the establishment at El Destino was sufficiently imposing to attract nearby planters. Roberson made frequent references to visitors who came out to the estate to watch the progress of the plant; and on one occasion boasted proudly of the output, advising Jones to "see if anny of your northern mill Can Beete that"?

The purpose of the mill plant was not merely to meet the demands of the two Jones estates, El Destino and Chemonie, but Roberson engaged in an extensive business in the surrounding countryside. The records contain numerous accounts with other planters for the making of barrels, sawing of wood, grinding of corn, and tanning of hides. In fact, from July, 1863, through January, 18 the mill plant received \$1,146.59 for work completed.⁷ These figures become more significant when one remembers that the War had been going on for two years at this date.

The presiding genius of the El Destino mills was "Judge" Jonathan Roberson whom Jones had brought from Savannah to construct the dam and canal. He was well along in middle life, as he had at least one grown son; also, he is remembered by Uncle Demps as the "Old Jedge." Why he was called "Judge" is unknown, but he possessed the title when he came from Georgia and it stuck to him. The Judge was distinguished for his illiteracy and his inefficiency. The proof of the former needs no comment after one has read his letters; the latter quality was stressed in every mention made of him by all the overseers of the plantations.⁸ That Jones was inclined to agree with

⁶ See I. of the appended documents: Roberson to Jones, September 30, 1854.

⁷ See III. of the appended documents: Account of El Destino Mill, July 15, 1863, to January 15, 1864. An earlier settlement of accounts had been made July 15, 1863.

⁸ The relations between Roberson and the overseers are discussed in Part I. of this series, *Florida Historical Society Quarterly*, January, 1929.

the overseers may be inferred from the Roberson letters in which the millwright excused his delays, insisted that he was "endeavoring to put the best foot foremost and progressing well with the work", and pleaded for "incouragement". Evans even went so far as to bluntly declare that the mills would never reach their capacity as long as Roberson remained in authority. To draw once more on Uncle Demps's story of plantation situations, dissatisfaction the Roberson regime reached such a pass George King of St. Marks was brought in as assistant. After the arrival of King, Uncle Demps said, the "old Judge" had to do was "sit in a rockin' cheer and give advice". From all one can gather regarding the "Judge's" temperament, he must have found that situation enchanting.

The Judge's wanderings from the straight and narrow path were sometimes more serious than those just discussed. He was criticized by the overseers with being extremely lax with his hands, so much so in fact that it constituted one of the quarter problems. The mill gang was separate from rest of the hands in the direction placed over them, but they continued to live at the quarter and were under the supervision of the overseer for many regulations including the giving of "tickets" or permission. In addition to the other counts charged against him, the millwright was detected in an intrigue with one of his own hands in September, 1850. Upon investigation, it was discovered that several of the negroes had been deprived of their full rations in order to increase the supply of certain favorites; also, one of the women confessed that, in company with others, she had received gifts of

⁹ *Florida Plantation Records*, p. 140: Evans to Jones, July 15, 1855.
¹⁰ White to Jones, June 17, 1850.

whiskey on several occasions.¹¹ White taxed Roberson with the evidence but the latter "would neither confess nor deny anything".¹² It was expected that Roberson would resign but such was not the case.

In spite of these sins of omission and commission, Roberson occupied a secure position at El Destino. From the letters regarding the incident just related, one might infer that he was not under the direction of Major White but was responsible directly to Jones. All the claims of moral obliquity and business unreliability to the contrary, it cannot be denied that Roberson constructed and operated the mill plant—a feat which necessitated at least some ability and mechanical knowledge. Furthermore, he remained on the estate until after the War and, during part of the struggle, was acting overseer as well as millwright.

In the community, Roberson filled a role somewhat more distinctive than might have been expected. When the project of establishing a post office at El Destino was under consideration, he was the prospective postmaster.¹³ Also in the summer of 1855, he was selected as arbiter in a quarrel between Tompkins of Tompkins Mill and the directors of the Florida and Georgia Plank Road Company regarding the construction of the road. If we can believe the gentleman's own version, his award was favorably accepted by the parties in question.

¹¹ White had full power under his contract to supervise the overseers in the discharge of their duties, and, should he deem it expedient, to remove them and appoint others. Contract between George Noble Jones and Robert White, May 1, 1848. White made no effort to take action in the situation referred to above but informed Jones that if Roberson resigned as a result of the exposure, he would make every effort to carry on the work until a new millwright was found. White to Jones, September 3, 1850.

¹² Florida Plantation Records, p. 60: White to Jones, September 10, 1850.

¹³ *Ibid.* p. 131: Evans to Jones, June 15, 1855.

¹⁴ See I. of appended documents: Roberson to Jones, September 15, 1852.

The general conditions of operation of the mills must remain largely a matter of inference. The Judge was provided with the "customary perquisites", namely a house, servant, and foodstuffs. He also had stock and some land on which he raised cotton, corn, and potatoes. Judging from his description of the railroad survey, the location of his house may be tentatively placed on the St. Augustine road near the little station bearing the faded sign, El Destino. Although outside labor was employed for the building of the dam and part of the canal, by 1852 Roberson was evidently relying solely on his quota of the plantation negroes. At any rate, he made no mention of hired labor in any of his letters; while, at the same time, he complained constantly of the inadequacy of his gang. In one letter, he reported that he was always crippled by sickness as from three to five men were usually out. From this it would seem that his force at best was none too large.¹⁵ Although the negroes lived at the quarter, Roberson regulated their working hours, which incidently were less than those of the rest of the hands, and portioned out his own rations. The mill also had its own oxen, wagons, tools, etc.

The work of the mill was not impaired by the War except in the reduction of hands employed.¹⁶ Accounts of the mill operations for 1864 give evidence that a fair business was still going on although, of course, payment was largely in Confederate currency.¹⁷ The end of the War effectively draws the curtain on all mill

¹⁵ See I. of appended documents: Roberson to Jones, August 23, 1853.

¹⁶ The El Destino negroes were used during the War to transport food and military supplies to Georgia. Uncle Demps drove one of these supply wagons back and forth from Thomasville.

¹⁷ These accounts are found in the El Destino Mill Journal, 1862-1865. Some of the accounts are printed as III. of the appended documents.

activities. Nothing can be told of its history after this date from the records which have survived.

The documents printed below do not by any means constitute all the mill material. The selections have been made with a view to giving as comprehensive a picture of the mill plant as possible and, also, relating it to the Florida of that day.

KATHRYN T. ABBEY

LETTERS OF JONATHAN ROBERSON TO GEORGE NOBLE
JONES, 1852-1855

State of Florida Leon County
March the 18th 1852 Dear Sir

We are all well and we have had a greateal of rain for the Last 4 or 5 days and it drove me out of the seete I was dun Freming and Clearing and Leveling out the seete to raise ; and am now putting up the Black Smith shop, and Jointing plank for the Mill sheeting and walling and piling: I have got Davey, Ancell, & Jim and Jointing plank, I have the rest putting up the Black Smith shop-William¹ came here from georgia yesterday and will cary this letter on to the office this eveing I am verry much plesed with you for Calling to see My familly, My son gorge sent by William a Verry fine Book and Letter, every thing is going on here Verry well-but Jim appears to be very much distrist not being allowed to go to belair, when he went this Last time he brought all his Clothing and things he Could but did not bring them all-and wants to go back and bring the balance, let me no what to do in this Case-I am likely to Lose Jim and Ball both with the

¹ Seete, seat or site of mill.

² William was possibly the mulatto, William B. Nuttall, who was the body servant of the owners of El Destino.

³ Bel Air, a small town a few miles south of Tallahassee.

hallow horne ;⁴ I have not seen Mr Evans⁵ yet-William said he Lost one of those mules on the way it dies, he was seven days cuming out & he sends his best wishes to you and familly - I believe Mr Whatley⁶ is getting aLong Very well-as soon as the water runs down and the seete gets drye I shall put up the frame nothing more at present. I will write to you again in the Cours of one month, Sit My best respects to you and familly

JONATHAN ROBERTSON

State of Florida Leon County
May the 21st 1852

Dear sir I have not written as early as I ought to have dun and the reason was I have been so Clostly ingaged with my worke I thought but Little of writing until I had something to write about I have been in reasonable good health since you left but there has been Considerable sickness amgtst the hands I could not Average more than nine working hands during the hole of them since you left-I split 3000 rales hald and run a Cros fence and planted it with corn⁷ and it looks finely,- then put up a Large firm Black Smith shop weather-boarded and covered with ***⁸ shingles 4 windows 2 dores shed in front and a Brick forge at each end of the house ; with sheete iron stove pipes attached to

⁴Jim and Ball were oxen. Hallowhorne or hollow horn is a disease of horned cattle characterized by a decreased quantity or deteriorated quality of the blood. According to Roberson, his teams were not adequate in either strength or number to the work they had to do.

⁵John Evans was the overseer Chemonie from 1847 to 1856 and, again, for a short time in 1858.

⁶Jesse Whatley was the overseer at El Destino. He came to the plantation in 1849 and remained until 1853.. He was reputed to have been very lax, demoralizing the negroes by requiring too little work.

⁷From this reference and, also, from subsequent mention of the progress of his crops, stock, etc it may be inferred that Roberson had a fair amount of land granted him for cultivation.

⁸Illegible.

each forge and the Bellows and tools all fixed up and we are carying on worke in the shop-in stile, and I have got a Large quatity of borde wood Cut for burn-ing coal—thence I turned in and framed up all my timber, Cleared out the seete, threw in the mud sils Laid the sheeting drove the piling well all around and a Cross the middle and then Commenced Halling up the timbers out of the yard to the seete, and thence to rasing and succeeded in rasing with only nine hands-I applied for no help as I saw Mr Whatley has had so much bad Luck.⁹ I did not to Call on him for help, , but I have got it up and nobddy hurt and people Cums Very much to see it and we are planking up and durting up the walls, , You can not amagin how sitely it Looks, , the yarde is prity Cleare of timber and I have set in today to getting timber, to put in a tale race¹⁰ frame below the mill frame to secure the Banks belowe,-and when that is dun I shall Commence on the upperstors, , and then hew out the rafters as they have to be 28 feete Long, and no mill can saw them & then I will Commence getting out the shingles and Cover the frame to pertect it from the weather, & then prosede to put in the grist mill from above ; in the first place hew the timber and let it dry while we are diging out the seete then frame and put it up-then put up the foreboy then all will be reddy for the mushenery I have got on smuthly and finely noboddy

⁹ There are no available reports from Whatley to explain the "bad luck" to which Roberson refers. However, Evans reported the death of two El Destino negroes, Jim Jones and Pleasant, during April 1852. **Florida Plantation Records**, pp. 63, 67: Evans to Jones, April 2, 1852; same to same, April 30, 1852.

¹⁰ Tailrace, the channel leading the water away from the wheel. The problem of taking care of the water of Burnt Mill Creek when it was high was always great. Uncle Demps insists that there is still danger of flooding.

¹¹ Forebay, that part of the millrace where the water flows upon the wheel.

hurte and all things has went on very well with me and nothing amis- have got my corn from Evans but has not been able to get any fodder at all, Ida has a fine heffer calf, , it groes fast-Ida was runing in the woods and I have taken hur up keeps hur up and feeds hur but wil not milk hur till the calf gets large and strong-My oxen all doing well in fact I have no complaint to report to you the Negroes is very attentive and works harde and faithfully and every thing I do is well dun, , there was forty one 41 of your Negroes Baptised last sunday in the canall above the Bridge¹² by James Page it was the largest Negro meeting I ever saw, Davey & Polly and all the young set I do not recollect all ther names, , I have not had time to look over your crop, and I have not seen Capt Edwards yet, , as I have been so Clostly engaged at home that I could attend to any thing abroad, , I congratulate you and Mrs Jones with your fine son, - and give my compliments to all the familly, , and let me heare from you shortly and I will write to you a gain in 3 or 4 weekes, - My barrel of fish has not yet arrived,-Lanson Evans is out at John Evans,-nothing more but remains yours with respect

JONATHAN ROBERSON

N.B.Excuse bad writing Hillis Wallis was
baptised and hur and winter is down sick
but not dangerous.

State of Florida Leon County
Eldestino Mills June the 12th 1852

Dear sir after my best respects to you and familly I am
in Moderate helth Davey Niger Ben Jackson Primus

¹² The canal mentioned here was the tailrace canal from the dam to the St. Marks river, and the bridge was that over Burnt Mill Creek. There is now a negro church (Saint John's Baptist Church) located not far from this place.

and Butler has bin sick several days all came out today but Davey but he is on the mend we have had a grateal of harde rain ; I have not bin able to get any fodder in the settlement at all but got on the 9th instant one bale of Hay at Newport¹³ when I sent for the last mule I could not hall all the first time My steers is pore and nothing to feede with I can hardely get my halling dun for the want of feed-I recved from Mcnaught & ormand 6 long handled shovels and 6 long handle spades & 12 sweepe plows for the Cheemonie place,- I have at this time but 2 allowances¹⁵ of meete and noes not wheare to get any more, I wish you to make sum arrangement for me to get meete as quick as posable, I am getting my corn from Evans as long as I use it, I mailed you a Letter I think about two weekes since ; and gave you all the particulars in that, nothing of much Consequence has ocured since, I am progresing with the worke Very well with the number of hands that is able to worke ; we are framing the 3rd story of the Mill and will be able to commence raising that toward the latter parte of next week ; and then commence framing and putting on the 4th story, thence hewing out the rafters and getting the shingles to cover the house ; Covered-then I shall begin hewing timber for other frame, , I am getting on Verry well there is a man by the name of Josiah Fowler to be hung in Newport on the 18th instant for Murder, , the plank

¹³ New Port was founded on the St. Marks River after Port Leon was destroyed by a storm in September, 1843. On September 20, 1843, a committee of citizens met to deliberate on the possibility of establishing another port on higher ground. Land was eventually purchased from the Apalachicola Land Company two miles below Magnolia. *Florida Sentinel*, October 3, 1843.

¹⁴ McNaught and Ormond was a firm at New Port from whom Jones was in the habit of purchasing supplies, implements, etc. for El Destino and Chemonie.

¹⁵ Allowances or rations, foodstuff distributions for the slaves.

rode is just finished to Newport from the Mills¹⁶ and now commenced coming up from the mills,-I think the cut worms and grasshoppers have injured your Cotton Crop Considerablly at Vass Mr Mecan has got a good Crop my oates is Verry sorry as they were put in late and the drought kept them Back-I do not no how I will make out to feede my steers to do the halling as I shall have a grateal of halling to do Let me hear from you as quick as conveneant yours with respect

JONATHAN ROBERSON

State of Florida Eldestinamills

September the 15th 1852

Dear sir

I am getting on as usual we are getting Shingles out of pine timber, we find the timber very bad we cannot get them as fast as we Could have dun out of Syprress we still have a grateal of rain the swamps full of water, I am progresing to Cover the Frame as quick as we posably Can, I am halling home the weatherbooy

¹⁶ The Plank road mentioned was undertaken by the Florida and Georgia Plank Road Company. The company was organized in the summer of 1850 and applied to the General Assembly for a charter. The company had decided that if the charter was not granted, they would build the road as a joint stock enterprise. White to Jones, July 16, 1850. This was not necessary, however, as the charter passed both houses and was approved by the governor, January 14, 1851. According to the terms thereof, the construction of the road was to begin within one year and was to run from New Port to the Georgia line in the direction of Thomasville. Twenty miles of the road had to be completed in three years. The state gave the company a right of way, two rods on each side of the road and the use of timber along the way for construction. A right of way was also permitted through private property on payment of a compensation. *Acts and Resolutions of the General Assembly of Florida, 5th Session, 1850-1851*, chap. 326, p. 77. The Mills indicated were undoubtedly Tompkins Mills.

¹⁷ Vass field, a field on El Destino located to the south of Burnt Mill Creek.

¹⁸ Wheatherbooy, weatherboard.

to have it ready-and when we are dun the Shingles we have to hew the Rafters and Cellerbeems before we can Commence Shingling the house, on or about the 22 of August we had a Verry hard rane and the waters was as high as when the gale was Last year but it never grased the Levey, our works are verry Strong we have sickness as usual Fillis, Niger & Jim Hall is sick at this time, William in Tallahassee¹⁹ has been verry sick but is getting better, my Fish has arrived but nothing Else has Cum yet, you state that you have becam impatient for the Mills to be runing, you are not more so than I am, and I allways put the best foot Foremost and puts your hands up to all they are able to bare ; the forse is two small for the quantity of worke they have to do and the wroke is all heavy worke and from 3 to 5 Generally sick ;²⁰ but when you see the work I think you will be staisfyed. Tompkins Mills²¹ are Advertised to be sold on the 8th october next and all the stock there is Very fine Mules and oxen to be sold and if you should wish to perchase any provided they go Cheape I should like to have two to Assist the oxen for my halling is two much for them to do and I Can not keepe up my halling with them if you wish to purchase give me instrutions and I will attend the sale, I think there will be grate bargains to be had for this

¹⁹ It was not uncommon for negroes to be hired out by their masters for various purposes and the frequent mention made of the fact that William was in Tallahassee would seem to indicate such a situation in his case. Indeed in 1850, Major R. W. White, the Tallahassee agent for the Jones plantations, wrote Jones that he expected to be able to find work for William as a drayman in the neighboring capitol. White to Jones, August 10, 1850.

²⁰ In an earlier letter of the same time Roberson mentions the fact that he rarely had more than nine at work at once. This would seem to indicate that his force during the summer and fall of 1852 was around fifteen. This is very interesting inasmuch as it is the only clue there is to the number of the mill gang.

²¹ Tompkins Mills was probably located on the New Port-Monticello road near New Port.

reason, the stock funds is dun and the plank rode stoped, it is finished up to the 7 mile house old feild Tompkins has quit them, Cold for a settlement and they Could not agree on the price of the worke & the Directors of the Rode and Tompkins Countd on me to Arbitrate and say what the worke was worth-this was the unfinished parte of the upper end, about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles I dun so settled the dispute to the satisfaction of all partys, and now Tompkins is going to sell out his Mills and all his stock, he has several yoke of oxen and I think about 20 mules all of a Very Large size and Mostly young Mules ; but I do not know what the terms of the sale will be (and so ends the plank rode) this is a Very sickly year in this Country ; Youre Jimmy had a Little Child died yesterday and Little Fillises Child next to the youngest and Tempys Little Boy is Very sick and the Doctor is attending them Land war-rants²² is of grate demand here sum person at Madison Court House has Advertised for 500 Land warrents, they sell here at from 80 to \$100 for warrents of 160 Acres and so on a Cording to size-My stock is all in fine order (Excuse me for not writing sooner) ; I recvd your letter since I wrote Last My Best respects to you and Family

JONATHAN ROBERSON

State of Florida Leon County Eldestino Mills

July the 23rd 1853- Dear sir

I am in good health at present-and hope you and family are in good health,-Recved your Letter dated the 1st July I wondered at my not getting a Letter from you sooner when wrote you three Letters and recved no ansurs, you will be so good as to Mail my Letters

²² Land warrants, papers issued by the United States government showing that the holder was entitled to the public lands therein specified.

seperate to themselves as I shall send My own Letter My self to the post office ; Every thing is going well with me here except sum sickness Tamer is here Fillis has bin sick for the Last 2 Months and Tamer Benty Primus and Ben wallis is sick at this time, I thank you kindly for letting me have Tamer to Cook ; and when Fillis is able to Cook for me Tamer shall Cook for the hands next weeke we shall finish rasing the ground frame of the Mill then will run out the forebay put in the gates plank up and Durte the frame so the water can run threw and then Commence putting in Mashienaray and starte the saw, to saw lumber to finish the upper storyes of the house, I do not no at this time what to write for untill I get on further with the worke I let the water in the Canall Let it rise until it was going threw the Cotton field past the shanty and the Levey being new became soft and settled a grateal, I drawed of the water and find that sum places in the Levey is not high enough and the water is in the way, - so I will make a flat²³ and with a few hands rase those Low places while the others is putting in Mashienary, every thing is favorable and the peoples spirits is getting up they see that Every thing will Cum wright and that the Mills will worke ; and there is a grate many Gentlemen Cuming to see it General Whitfield and Mr Crooms Came to see it and says it is the gratest works they ever saw, the was raised much higher than it was in the grate gail, the water was up to foot of the Noble²⁴ field and all over the bare swamp up to Murans at Mill place, the Naborhood is Verry much

²³ The flat was constructed to safeguard the levee. In a later passage, Roberson speaks of raising the flat to a thickness of one foot to protect the levee from overflow.

²⁴ Noble field, one of the fields of El Destino located north of Prioleau field which borders Burnt Mill Creek. One of the branches of the creek flows through Noble field, hence the possibility of the overflow reaching there.

Astonished at the Extensive Resorsage²⁵ and that
Everything will worke of wright, I will wright you
again in a shorte time for such articles as I May want,

Yours truly

JONATHAN ROBERSON

State of Florida Eldestino Mills
August the 23rd 1853 Dear sir

I recved your Letter Last night Dated 9th August Last
in reply to My Letter Dated the 23rd July Last, I was
not apprised of Mr Whatleys : nding to the office and
I have mist the time and ha e yet to send up this
Letter, I as well and the hands is all well except Joe
he is sick I have had sickness : ongst the hands since
My Last Letter from 3 to 5 a a time but I Doctored
them up and has Made no Doctors bill except with Joe ;
I notice your remarks about the Canall, I rased the
water on the Levey twice bu the new places in the
Levey would seem soft when the water was rased on
the Levey and I then would dr w it down to Let it dry
settle and harden and then rased it the 2nd time a
trifle hier but not a ful head so s to temper and harden
the Levey and the water past the shanty 150 yards, and
it Commenced raning and Bl owing Rapidly and the
gates was drawn up and Let tl water off as I thought
it would be Imprudent to Let i stand Expected danger
full of water before it Could pas threw the Mill, and
the Canall at the shanty and at the pond is Verry neare
on a Level you no youre self ; the water Leeked but
Very Little going threw, and ould have gone threw
had we not have drawn it of ; and I have not stopted it
since as I thought best to Leav it so until I get up the
forebay at the Mill as we are : that now and when it
is dun I will stop the water again I am a frade of a
gab and will keepe it Emty u ill the forebay is dun ;

²⁵Probably reservoir.

and the water can pas threw the Mill, you remark that I stated the worke was perfectly sufficient and strong to answer the purpose required, any person would have thought so to have seen it when it was first dun but by settling it down with the water and tempering it, it has settled in a few shorte places that will have to be Rased a Little by flatting durte ; and that will be dun by a parte of the hands while the rest is putting in the saw Macheinery, it settled the most at those brakes where it was all new, I am in Better Spirits about it Every day, Mr Jones you no that we cannot be perfect in Judging Every Little Matter, and you seeme to doubt My Statements but I Came as near as any Mān Could have Cum to it by a fair View, but the Levey had to settle and I did not quit working on it till the rain drove me out and there is no doubt that it is better than you expect I have our Barrel of porke and one part of a fish barrel the Fish has spoilt Verry much I was to get 2 more of Whatley but he says they are all spoilt, I May Make out 5 or 6 weeks Longer, plese Let Me no what to do about provisions am getting on as fast as possible, do not be uneasey, Let me heare from you as quick as Convenient, I have recved the Leather and Iron have a New gin band repard the gin put on a new sper wheel and started your gin Last weeke and Mr Whatley says it dun Better than Ever ; you do not need a new gin at all,
Yours with respect-

J. ROBERSON

State of Florida Sept 30th 1854

Dear sir

I am not well today the rest is all well except Benty he is afflicted will biles I have sent you 2 Letters that I have had no answer for ; we are progresing with our

worke as fast as fast as posable we saw of mornngs and sum times of an Evening the principal parte of our worke is on the Levey as we have not got the water raised a n o u g h yet to saw Constant, you your patience is waring out, because I suppose we are so Long at the worke but we are not Idle and My Faith & patience is growing stronger as I find things More & More favourable as we raise the water by degrees Every thing works out better and when we get the water up to the first Calculation when we tuck the Level for diging the Canall Everry thing will worke out wright; I have got nearly all the lumber sawed for the Mill House; and I have not recved those nails you were to send me and will soon want them there has bin nothing shipped to me yet—the saw stricks 280 licks in one Minut with a 12 inch Crank, threw an 18 inch stock.²⁶ See if anny of your Northern Mill Can Beete that. I hope this will find you all well and My Best respects to you and familly-

J. ROBERSON

²⁶ The editor is indebted to Mr. F. F. Bingham of Pensacola for the following description of the type of the El Destino Mill and an estimate of its capacity:-The early type of saw mill (preceding the steam engine driving a circular saw) was called the "muley". It was water driven, using either the overshot or undershot water wheel. The shaft and crank arrangement simply pulled a one-blade saw up and down. The log was placed upon a wheeled truck or carriage, and forced slowly against the toothed, or cutting edge of the saw, and lumber was produced. The El Destino saw mill, with "280 licks in one minut with a 12-inch crank through an 18-inch stock",

was, I should say, a pretty quick mill for its day and time. The "280 licks" means, of course, "strokes" -the one-blade saw was raised 280 times and lowered 280 times in a minute. It cut only on the downward stroke. The "12-inch crank" indicates that the mill could make a maximum cut of 24 inches. The "18-inch stock", doubtless means an 18-inch stick or log. The capacity of such a mill was probably about 3,000 feet per day. It may have been more or less, depending upon the head and volume of the pond or steam supplying the power. Many of these old muley mills were later adapted to steam and production speeded up.

State of Florida Leon County July 13th
1855

Dear sir

I received your Letter on the 6 instant and was plesed to heare you were all well, the Mill stones dun better than I expected they Make Verry good Meal the people likes it better than from anny other Mill—I could not iform you of ther quality in my other Letter as I had not tested them Long enough, will Answer Verry well, but I wish to have the other pair of the Blue Culler ; and of the size of the Bill I gave you ; I progreest on with my worke finely and runing the Mills with Davey and Ancel and My self and kept Jim & Bob closer the house Making blinds and painting them and glasing the shash and putting in the glas as I found sash aplenty except one ; and had all the hinges made in the shop for the blinds and got all hung but two, and on the 3rd July it rained all day and all night Verry harde and I had all the gates up in the Mill house and runned the saw also and had two other hands at the river guarding the water there, and the Little waustway being sum what Decade gave way and the East side of the fram gave way and all the plank on that side tore off and it washed a way a bout 30 feete of the Levey on the Morning of the 4th of July,²⁷ on the 5th I set in to getting timbers for a New frame made it finished rasing it yesterday and I think I will finish it today or tomorrow the frame is 3 feete higher than the old one and heavier; and then there is sum other places that I wish to put some worke on before I stop water I expect to stop water on thirsday

²⁷ This was the catastrophe of which Evans wrote Jones on July 16, 1855. According to Evans, the breaking of the dam was due to carelessness as "it Rained all night on the third and the judge did not have a single gate drawn all night untill Next, Morning About Sunrise not Never sent to see how high the water was nor nothing of the sort." *Florida Plantation Records*, p. 139: Evans to Jones, July 16, 1855.

next, it is true it stoped me a while but we would have had to stop anny how to put in a New frame so the dammage is not much at Last and I wish I had Just as good a frame in at the River and Raised 3 feete higher and then we Could raise the dam as high as we plesed and Every thing would worke of in stile ; I notice your Remarks about its being a poor Mill because the water would not drive the saw all the time with the grist Mill, well it Might not be Caused of the Long drye spell the water was lowe and I saved it to grind, when the water sweld on me in time of the Rain all the gates in the Mill was open and the saw rung threw a 20 foot stock as hard as it dast 3 hands attending to it and the water Never failed in the Canall untill the Levey Broke ; and when the Levey is finished the water will stand in the pond higher than when it Broke ; and you Cannot Condem any thing by testing it untill it is finished, waight untill the Levey is finished as intended a Cording to the plan Lade down to be bilt by and then we will see what it will do ; I have sawed out Most all the timber for the Big whell and was sawing for Evans when stoped ; and a grateal of the floring plank for the Mill house ; after we stop water we will all go a head again ; and do not be afrede of My Indulging the Negroe for there is not a kind in the string;²⁸ Let me Heare from you some Old Man Abram at Tallahassee is quite lonesome and nearly helpless and wishes you to Let him Cum to the Mill and have requested me to write you on the subject his wife is Caried a way from home and he says he Can not Live there by him self he suffers for attention My best Respects to you & family

J. ROBERSON

²⁸ This is the only evidence in any of the letters that Jones ever reproved Roberson for his Conduct toward the negroes although many letters from the overseers contained complaints of this nature.

State of Florida Leon County
Eldestinomills, August 14th 1855

Dear sir

I am well at present and the Negroes are well except 2-I hope you and family are well, I have got all the damages mended at the Levey and the Mill is running and we are at worke on the Big wheel with the Mucanacks and the rest of the hands are Flotting durte to the Levey and Makes from 6 to 9 Lodes per day a Cording to the distance they have to Flot Evans is going on with his house I have sawed the best part of his Lumber²⁹ and I hope to be able to keepe him supplied and saw for myself two ; the RailRode

²⁹ Trouble arose between Evans and Roberson over this piece of work. Evans declared that the "Judge kept putting me off about Lumber that I have taken your instruction and gone to a mill where I can get it without any trouble." Furthermore the Judge failed to observe the specifications for one lot of timber, whereupon the wrathful Evans "had to quit him". *Florida Plantation Records*, p. 143: Evans to Jones, August 15, 1855.

³⁰ The "Railrode" survey in question was the preliminary survey of the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad Company which was chartered in 1853. The road was to run from Pensacola, or any point or points on the waters of Pensacola Bay, in a eastwardly direction to the western or southern boundary of Georgia. The capital stock of the company was set at a minimum of \$1,500,000; this stock could be paid in cash or in "materials, labor, provisions, and all and everything necessary for the construction of the said road which the Board of Directors may at their discretion deem it expedient to accept." The company was to begin the construction within five years and complete the same within twenty years. *Acts and Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of Florida, 6th Session, 1852-1853*, chap. 484, p. 43. *Act to Incorporate the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad Company*. Jones was very much interested in the project inasmuch as he expected it to run through El Destino. He subscribed \$5,000 in money and a like amount to be paid in work. Cabell to Jones, July 1, 1855. The actual survey was under way early in August, 1855, under the direction of Captain William H. Griffin of South Carolina. Three lines were surveyed from Tallahassee east. Two of these lines passed around Lake LaFayette; one was run from that point near Monticello, while the other was marked out eight miles to the south. The third line was drawn via Bel Air and "along the flat woods." The line mentioned by Roberson was evidently the southern survey of the proposed route via Lake LaFayette. E. Houston to Jones, August 23, 1855.

surveyors is running the rout for the rail rode they Commenced at the depot at Tallahass and run East and Came down the south side of Lake LaFayette and threw Adams Back Yarde and on threw Roarkes Lane and Crosed the **³¹ Bridge Branch Below the ³² Bridge and threw the little field behind My garden Cut of one Corner of the potato patch and Crosed the rode³³ inside of M gate and a Cros the Canall and Run into the Lane bout the Country Line and thence turn down the Lane followed the rode threw the swamp to the Corner of t e fence thence turned East threw the woods pasted i a direct rout for our Course past the Muran old place and on Back of John McCowls ; it run threw My Cowpen. I have recvd nothing yet from the Vesel or Newporte E Houston and William Sanders Came near having a serious difickulty but the people stoped it I will write you again by the 15th or sooner I st me heare from you My best respects to you and f milly

J. ROBERSON

³¹Illegible.³²Illegible.

³³From its relation to the canal and the county line, the "rode" must be the St. Augustine road just above Burnt Mill Creek.

THE JOURNAL OF EL DESTINO MILL, JANUARY 8, 1862
TO DECEMBER 31, 1862

Journal of book at El Destino Mill

1862'			
Wednesday,	3 at Chumonie	-----	3
[Jan.] 8th.	at El Destino Mill	-----	8
Cloudy	at Grist Mill	-----	1
Cool	½ day at Ploughs	½ sawing -----	3
			14

The Journal begins on January 8, 1862 and continues through August 30, 1865. It is impossible to print the entire document, therefore selections from the record of the year 1862 have been made. As the mill was not materially affected by the War, the account here presented is typical of the period.

25

Thursday 9th.	at Chumonie	3
Cloudy	El Destino Farm	8
	" Grist Mill	1
S.W.	" Sawing & blacksmith shop	3
		14

Friday 10th. Same as above

Saturday 11th. Same

Monday 13th.	At Grist & Saw Mill	5
	El Destino Crib ²	4
	Ditching at El Destino	2
	Cutting Pond at E.	3
		14

Tuesday 14th. Same as above

Wednesday	At Grist & Saw	5
15th.	Cutting & hawling logs	2
	Cutting Pond E.	1
	Ditching	2
	Setting	1
	On Crib	3
		14

Thursday 16th. Henry for wife same

Friday 17th. Same

Saturday 18th. Same

Monday 20th.	Ditching at E. farm	2
	Diggers	1
	Cutting Pond	1
	Hawling & Cutting Logs	2
	At Grist & Saw Mill	5
	Carpenters at Crib	3
		14

Tuesday 21st Same

Wednesday 22d do.

Thursday 23d Same. Carpenters at Mill making gates.

² The crib was part of the structure of the dam.

³ Setting probably refers to the process of pounding down the banks of the canal, as mention is made in some of the later letters of Roberson of "setting" the levee and canal.

Friday 24th.	William B. sick	1
	Carpenters at Mill	3
	Ditching farm	2
	Pond	1
	Diggers	1
	Hawling logs	1
	At grist & Saw	5
		<hr/>
		14
Saturday 25th.	Same	
Monday 27th.	Wm. B. Aberdeen sick	2
	Saw & Grist	5
	Ditching	2
	Cutting logs	1
	Diggers	1
	working at yard	2
	Hawling logs	1
		<hr/>
		14
Tuesday 28th.	Saw & Grist	5
	Ditching	2
	Diggers	1
	Cutting & Hawling	3
	at yard	3
		<hr/>
		14
Wednesday 29th	Same	
Thursday 30th.	Same	
Friday 31	1/2 day on Ploughs	3
	Balance of day as before	
Fberuary 1.	Ancil at yard	1
	Carpenters at yard	3
Cloudy	Henry M day at yard	1
Wind	At grist & Saw	4
S. W.	To Town	1
	Hawling & cutting	3
	Ditching	1
		<hr/>
		14
3.	Hands grinding & sawing	4
	Making a safe wagon	3
	Halling logs	2

Tuesday 4.	at Sawing Shingles	2
	drag saw ⁴	1
	at new gates	3
	grinding	1
	Smith shop	1
	Halling & Cutting logs	3
		20
Wednesday 5.	Hands at the gates	4
	Bob at the yarde	1
	at the Logs	3
	at the Mill	1
	at the yarde	2
		11
Cloudy 6.	at the gates	3
	at Shingles	2
	at the drag saw	2
	at the Logs	3
	at Chumonee	1
	at the ditching	1
		12
Cloudy 7.	at the Mill and shingles	4
	at the gates	3
	at the Logs	3
	at the Shop	1
Saturday 8.	at the gates	1
	at the Mill	4
	at the Logs	3
	at Shop	1
	gon to town	1
		21 ⁶
10.	Sawing	4
	at the gates	3
	at the grist Mill	1
	at the Logs	3
	in the Shop	1
	ditching	2
		14
11.	at the Mill	4
	at the grist Mill	1
	at the gates	3

⁴ Drag Saw, saw whose cut is made by a pull or drag.

⁵ Mill gates which controlled the admission of water to the wheel.

⁶ There is no system to the totals which Roberson placed at the end of his daily lists of hands. Sometimes the total is given each day, at others every two or three days, and sometimes at the end of each page of the journal.

	at the Shop	1
	at the Logs	3
	ditching	2
12.	At the Mill	5
	at the gates	3
	at B. Shop	1
	at the Logs	3
	ditching	2
		28
13.	At the Mill	5
	At the traves and wagon	3
	at B. Shop	1
	ditching	2
	at the Logs	3
	Rutting out Live oaks	3
14.	At the Mill	3
	at the Hopping Barrils	1
	at the wagon and carte	2
	at the B. Shop	1
	at the Logs	3
	at the ditching	2
	Setting out treese	3
	Rain to day	32
15.	at the Mill	4
	at the Logs	3
	3 at the Carte and gates	3
17.	at the Mill	3
	at ditching	2
	at the Logs	3
	at the gates	3
18.	at the Mill	4
	at gates and other worke	3
	at the Logs	3
	at ditching	2
	at the Shop	1
		35
19.	At the Mills	4
	at the L o g s	3
	at the Shop	1
	at the carte Boddy	2
	Tim hall sick	1
	at ditching	2
20.	At the Mill, Hall sick	3
	at Carte Boddy and spades	2
	at the Shop at Spades	1
	at Logs Hall at the Lot	3
	at ditching	2

29

	21.	at the Mills	4	
		Little William herte	2	1
		halling lumber to my lot	1	
		repairing spinning wheele	1	
		at the Logs	1	
		in the Shop	1	
		ditching	1	
	22.	at the Mills Saw	1	
		at my Lot	4	
		at halling lumber	2	
		in the Shop	1	
		gon to town	1	
		Cutting Logs	1	
		ditching	2	
			45	
Monday	24.	At the Mill & Shop	2	
		at the Stable	6	
		at Logs	2	
		our wagon halling lumber	2	
		ditching	2	
	25.	at the Logs	2	
		halling lumber to Stable	2	
		working on Stable	5	
		at the Mills and Shop	2	
		at the Logs	2	
		ditching	2	
	26.	the same as above	15	
			44	
	27.	Henery came Home at Mill & Shop	2	
		at Logs	2	
		at the Stable	5	
		Halling lumber to Stable	2	
		ditching	1	
	28.	as above	12	
March 1.		at the Mills and Shop	2	
		at the Stables Joe sick	4	
		at the Logs	2	
		ditching	1	
			33	
Monday	3.	at the Mills	4	
		Halling Logs	2	
		at the Shop	2	
		ditching	1	
		Mending Harnes	1	
		at the Lot	2	
		Joe & Tim Hall sick		2
Tuesday	4.	at the Saw-mill	4	
		at grist mill	1	
		at the Logs	3	

	in the Black Smith shop	1	
	ditching	1	
	at the gate Latches	1	
	Fillis & Niger & Tim Hall sick	3	
	Big frost this morning		
	Little Robert cooking	23	
Wednesday 5.	at the Mills	4	
	one sick, at the Logs	3	
	in shop Charles repairing plows	1	
	Tim Hall sick Joe sick	2	
Thursday 6.	at the Mills	4	
	at the shop & 2 framing gates	3	
	at Logs Hall painting gates	3	
	Aberdeen halling fencing	1	
Friday 7.	5 hands hang and painting gates	4	
Cold	at the Mills moving stakes	4	
Ice	at the Logs	3	
last night	halling fencing	1	
March 6.	at Mill	3	
	grist Mill	1	
	at the shop and gates	4	
	Tim Hall painting gates	1	
	at the Logs and halling	3	
Very cold	Aberdeen halling fencing	1	
		45	
Monday 10.	at the saw Mill	3	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	at the Logs	3	
	hanging gates at the quarter	3	
	Tim Hall painting gates	1	
	Winter sick	1	
	Aberdeen halling fencing	1	
Tuesday 11.	at the Mill	3	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	at the Logs	3	
	Tim Hall painting gates	1	
	at the Logs	3	
	Aberdeen halling fencing	1	
	hanging gates at the quarter	3	
	Winter sick	1	
Wednesday 12.	at the quarter hanging gates	3	
	at sawmill and grist Mill	4	
	Making gates	1	
	at the Logs	2	
	William Joe & Winter sick	3	
	Fillis sick for three weekes	1	
	Little Robert cooking	-	
		37	

31

Cloudy & 13. Rainy	at the Logs	2	
	at the Mills	4	
	framing gates	1	
	making bridges at the quarter	3	
	halling bridge plank	1	
Friday 14.	Winter joe & William Fillis sick.....	4	
	at the Mills	4	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	at the Logs	3	
	at the gates	3	
Saturday 15.	Winter Fillis & Primus sick		
	boiling lumber part of the day	4	
	at the logs	2	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	halling fencing	1	
	Primus sick	1	
	Hall gon to Belair		
	Winter sick, Fillis sick	2	
		30	
Monday 17.	boiling lumber	4	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	at the Logs	2	
	at the gates	3	
	Winter Aberdeen & Primus sick	2	
Tuesday 18.	Fillis came out to day		
	boiling lumber	7	
	at the Logs	2	
	halling fencing	1	
	Winter & Primus sick	2	
Wed. 19.	all hands piling lumber	6	
	Henry sick	1	
	at the Logs	3	
	Aberdeen plowing garden	1	
	Winter sick	1	
Thurs. 20.	at the grist Mill	1	
	at the saw	4	
	at the grist	1	
	at the Logs	3	
	piling shingles	1	
	Stocking plow	1	
	Winter sick Henry sick	2	
	Aberdeen plowing	1	
		42	
Friday 21.	at the sawmill	4	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	boiling shingles	3	
	at the Logs	3	
	at my garden	1	

⁷ Stocking ploughs ; repairing or assembling ploughs.

Saturday 22.	at the Saw Mill	4	
	at the Logs	3	
	Cleareing out fence	3	
	halling fence plank	1	
	Winter sick yet		1
Could day	Sent two gates to Chumonie		
		23	
Monday 24.	at the sawmill	4	
	at the Logs	3	
	at the Mill fence	3	
	halling fencing	1	
	Winter sick yet		1
Tuesday 25.	at the Mill	4	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	at the Logs	3	
	at the fence	3	
	halling	1	
Wednes. 26.	Winter sick		1
	at the Mill stocking plows	2	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	at the Logs	3	
	at the fence	4	
Thursday 27.	Winter sick and Charles lame		2
	halling fencing	1	
	stoking plows	2	
	Cleaning and burning the fence	5	
	at the Logs	3	
Friday 28.	halling	1	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	at the shop Winter out	1	
	Charles sick or lame		1
	at the Sawmill putting post (?)	4	
Saterdy 29.	lining up fence	3	
	at the Logs	3	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	in the shop	1	
	putting up fence	3	
Sunday 30.	Charles lame with his leg		1
	all well and every right		
Monday 31.	at the Mills	3	
	at the shop	1	
	halling Logs	2	
	splitting rails	2	
	pining fence	3	
		59	

April	Halling manure at quarter	2	
Tuesday 1.	Making carte wheel	2	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	at the shop	1	
	Halling manure at the quarter	2	
	Splitting rails	1	
	Halling rails and making fence	2	
	pinning up fence at the quarter	3	
Wednesday 2.	in the smith shop	1	
	painting the gates	1	
	repairing the fence	2	
	splitting rails	1	
	Halling manure	2	
	pinning fence rails at quarter	3	
		48	
Thursday 3.	at the Mills	3	
	at Black smith shop	1	
	Halling rails and making fence	2	
	Splitting rails	1	
	pinning up fence at the quarter	3	
	Halling manure	2	
Friday 4.	at the Mills & Stocking plows	3	
	getting white oake	1	
	in the shop	1	
	splitting rails	2	
	Halling Logs	1	
	Halling manure	2	
	pinning up fence at quarter	3	
		25	
Saturday 5.	at the Mill	1	
	in the shop	1	
	at the Sawmill	3	
	Halling Logs	1	
	pinning up fence	3	
	halling manure	2	
Monday 7.	2 dresing the Mill	1	
	in the Shop	1	
	repairing wagon	1	
	at Chumonie	1	
	writing fence	2	
	Halling Logs	1	
	Halling manure	2	
	Charles sick or lame	1	
	pinning up fence	3	
Tuesday 8.	Dresing the Mills	2	
	repairing plows	1	
	Halling rails & Making fence	3	
	Halling manure	2	

	pinning up fence	3	
	Charles lame	1	1
	at Chemonie	1	
		35	
Wednesday 9.	Halling rails & repairing fence	3	
	stocking plows	1	
	at the Mills	1	
	in the Shop	1	
	halling manure	2	
	pinning up fence	3	
	at Chumonie	1	
	Charles lame	1	1
Thursday 10.	Stocking plows	1	
	pinning up fence	3	
	halling Manure	2	
	mending fence	3	
	at the Shop	1	
	at Chumonie	1	
	Charles lame	1	1
		11	
Friday 11.	at the Mill Just drest*	2	
	Mending fence	3	
	at Shop	1	
	Stocking plows	1	
	pinning up fence	3	
	Halling Manure	2	
	at Chumonie	1	
	Charles lame	1	1
Saturday 12.	at the Mills	1	
	repairing Shelling Mashine	1	
	finished repairing fence	3	
	at the Shop	1	
	pinning fence	3	
	Halling manure	2	
	at Chumonie	1	
	Charles Lame rain	1	1
Monday 14.	at the Mills sawing	3	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	at the Shop	1	
raining	Cutting stocks	2	
	pinning up fence	3	
	Halling Manure	2	
		37	

*Dressing the mill meant planing or scraping the millstone to make it more effective for grinding.

35

Tuesday 15. Mr. Jones gon to Savannah	at the Mills	4	
	Halling Logs	1	
	at the Shop	1	
	pinning up fence	3	
	halling manure	2	
	Charles at the quarter		1
	Ben sick		1
Wednes 16.	at the Mills	4	
	at the Shop	1	
	Halling Logs	1	
	pinning fence	3	
	Halling Manure at the quarter	2	
	Charles at the quarter		1
	Cutting Logs	2	
		24	
Thursday 17.	at the Mills	4	
	at the Shop	2	
	at the Logs	2	
	pinning up fence	3	
	Charles at the quarter		1
	Primus sick		1
Friday 19.	at the sawmill	4	
	at the Logs	3	
	at the Shop	2	
	pinning up fence	3	
	Charles at the quarter		1
	Bob repairing the shelling mashen	1	
Saturday 20.	in the Shop	2	
	at the Logs	3	
	pinning fence	3	
	Charles at the quarter		1
	Piling Lumber	2	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	they all have half the day		14
Monday 22	at the Logs	3	
	at the Shop	2	
	boiling Lumber	2	
	repairing sheller	1	
	pinning up fencing	3	
	Charles at the quarter		1
Tuesday 23	till half the day		
	at the Logs	3	
	repairing the Hs Chimny	1	
	at the Shop	2	
	putting up white oak timber	3	
	pinning fence at the Lot	3	
			1

*Lumber is frequently run through a boiling process to season the wood, render it more pliable or, in the case of cypress, kill whatever worms etc. may be lodged there.

Wednesday 24	all hands at the Mill dam	8	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	pinning up fence	3	
	Charles at the quarter		1
Thursday 25	at the Mill dam	8	
	at grist Mill	1	
	pinning up fence at the quarter	3	
	Charles at the quarter		1
	William gone to town for Mr. Jones to		
	Mail Letters to Savannah	44	
Friday 26	at the dam	7	
	Robert sick		1
	pinning up fence	3	
	at the Mill	1	
	Charles at the quarter		1
Saturday 27	at the dam	7	
	pinning up fence	3	
rain	at the Mill	1	
	Bob sick		1
	Charles at the quarter		1
Sunday 28	all well no remarks		
Monday 29	at the Mill dam	8	
	at the Mill	1	
the soldiers	pinning fence	3	
went of to	Charles at the quarter		1
tennessee			
Tuesday 30	at the Mill dam	7	
	pinning fence	3	
	at the Mill	1	
	Charles at the quarter		1
	Aberdeen sick		1
			45
Wednesday			
May the 1	at the dam	7	
	pinning fence	3	
	at the Mill	1	
	Charles at the quarter		1
	Aberdeen sick		1
Thursday 2	at the dam	7	
	pinning up fence	3	
	at the Mill	1	
	Charles at the quarter		1
	Aberdeen sick		1
Friday 3	at the dam	8	
	pinning fence	2	
	at the grist Mill	1	
	Edward sick		1
	Charles at the quarter		1
Saturday 4	finished Mill dam	8	
	pinning up fence	3	

	at the Mill	1	
	Charles at the quarter	1	
		<u>34</u>	
Sunday 5	all well fair weather		
Monday 6	at the Bale gunels ¹¹	5	
	grubbing Lot ¹²	3	
	pinning fence & hanging gates	3	
	Charles at the Lot	1	1
	at the Mill	1	
Tuesday 7	at the gunells for the Flat	4	
Self gon	pinning up fence at the quarter	3	
to town			
	gon to grovers Ville	1	
	at the Mill one stocking plows	2	
	grubbing the Lot	2	
	Charles at the quarter	1	1
	Joe sick	1	
Wednesday 8	at the Flat gunnels	6	
	pinning my Lot at home	3	
	at the Mill	1	
	Joe sick	1	1
	Charles at the quarter	1	
	gon to grovers Ville	1	
thursday 9	at the Flat gunels	5	
	Stocking plows	2	
	at the Mills	1	
	Joe Nager & William sick	3	
	Henry gon to grovers Ville	1	1
	Charles at the quarter	1	
Friday 10	finished the Flat timber	5	
	at my Lot	5	
	Sick	1	1
	Charles at the quarter	1	
	at the Mills	1	
Saterdy 11	finished the Lot and grubbing and putting tools in order	10	
	at the Mill	1	
	William sick	1	1
	Charles at the quarter	1	
Monday 13	at Halling Flat timber	7	
	gon to Chemonie	4	
	at the Mill	1	
	Charles at the quarter	1	1
		<u>74</u>	
Tuesday 14	at Chemonie	4	
	grubbing an cleaning up	7	
	niger sick	1	1

¹¹Bale gunels undoubtedly refers to a protecting bulwark designed to keep the water from overflowing the canal and levee.

¹²Grubbing the lot, working the lot with a grub hoe.

	at the Mill	1
	Charles at the quarter	1
Wednes 15	at Chemonie	4
	prepering to make brick	7
	at the Mill	1
	Charles at the quarter	1
Thursday 16	a good rain in the Evining	
	fixing to make brick	7
	at the Mill	1
	at Chemonie	4
	Charles at the quarter	1
Friday 17	at the Brick yards	7
	at the Mill	1
	at Chemonie	4
	Charles at the quarter	1
Saterdy 18	at the Brick	6
	Primus sick	1
	at the Mill	1
	Came home from Chemonee	4
	Charles at the quarter	1
	William gon to town	1
	* * * * *	
Monday [July] 28	at the quarter	12
	at the Mill	1
	burning Coal	2
	White working	1
	Jimmy sick	1
Tuesday 29	at the quarter	12
	at the Mill	1
	White working	1
	Burning Coal	2
Wednes 30	at the quarter	12
	at the Mill	1
	White working	1
	Burning Coal	2
Thirsdy 31	at the quarter pulling fodder	12
	at the Mill	1
	White working	1
	Burning Coal	2
August the 1st 1862.		
Friday 1	at the quarter pulling fodder	12
	at the Mill	1
	White washing my house	1
	Burning Coal	2
	Jimmy sick	1
Saterd 2	at the quarter	8
	at the Mill	1
	Burning Coal	1
Big rain	Winter & Jimmy	2
	White working	1
	Big William gon to town for papers	

¹²Pulling fodder; stripping the leaves off Indian corn for fodder.

39

Monday 4	at the quarter pulling fodder	8
	at the Mill	1
	Burning Coal	2
	White working	1
	Jimmy sick	1
Tuesday 5	at the quarter pulling fodder	8
	at the Mill	1
	Burning Coal	2
	White working	1
	Jimmy sick	1
Wednes 6	at the quarter	8
	at the Mill	1
	Burning Coal	2
	White wasing the house	1
	Jimmy sick	1
	Charles making Baskets	1
		31 98
		owte
Thursday 7	at the quarter	8
	at the Mill	1
	White working	1
	Burning Coal	2
	Jimmy sick	1
Friday 8	at the quarter	8
	at the Mill	1
	Jim Hall mending the carte	1
	Burning Coal	2
	Jimmy sick-fair day	1
New corn ground for Mrs. Mivraw	at the quarter	8
Saturday 9	at the Mill	1
	in the Shop	2
	Mending wagon Boddy	1
	Jimmy sick	1
	Ancils 3 children sick	3
Monday 11	at the quarter	8
	at the Mill	1
	in the Shop	3
	Jimmy at the yard sick	1
	Henery gon to quitmon	1
Tuesday 12	at the quarter	7
	at the mill	1
	in the Shop	3
	Jimmy sick	1
	Henery gon to quitmon	1
Wednesdy 13	at the quarter	8
	at the Mill	1
	in the Shop	3
	Jimmy sick	1
	Henery gon to quitmon	1
Thirsday 14	at the quarter	8
	at the Mill	1
	in the Shop	2
	Jim Hall handling hoes	1
	Jimmy sick, rainy weather	1

Friday 15	Hands all came in & fixing for Canall.	9
	at the Mill	1
	Jimmy sick & Primus sick	2
Saturday 16	all free today	
Monday 18	Commenced the Canall	16
	at the Mill	1
	Jimmy sick	1
	Bob & Primus sick	2
Tuesday. 19	five hands from the quarter	5
	4 hands from the Chemonie	4
	Mill hands rest sick	7
	at the Canall	16
	at the Mill	1
Wednesday 20	at the Canall	16
	at the Mill	1
	Robert-Primus, Williamsick	3
Thersday 21	at the Canall	15
	at the Mill	1
	Joe, Jimmy, Robert Jimussick	3
	William sick	
Friday 22	at the canal1	12
	at the Mill	1
rainy day	7 hands out sick	7
Saturday 23	at the Canall	12
	out of the Canall sick	7
	at the Mill	1
* Monday 25	at the Canall	13
	at the Mill	1
	3 hands sick-cloudy	3
Friday 15	at the Canall	13
Saterdy 16	at the Canall	13
	out sick	1
Mondy 17	at the Canall	18
	Mr. Johnson sent 8 hands to day	
Tuesday 18	at the Canall	18
Wednes 19	at the Canall	18
Thersday 20	at the Canall	16
	out sick	2
* Friday 21	finished the Canall to day	16
	out sick	2
Saturday 22	putting in a newe bridge at the Mill.....	16
	out sick	2
Monday 24	diging out the Bridge	16
	Bob out sick	1
Tuesday 25	raising the Bridge	15
	Bob sick Winter in the Shop.....	1
Wednesday 26	5 hands hewing 3 raking back dust.	8
	Two hands dresing the Mills	2
	Bob sick	1
Thirsday 27	at the Bridge	10
	out sick	2
Friday. 28	at the Bridge	10
	out sick	2

41

Saterdy 29	finished the Bridge _____ 10	
	out sick _____ 2	
	Started the Mill to day _____	
	* * * * *	
Monday 1	December., flatting to the dam 11	
	Hall making winder shetters _ 1	
Tuesday 2	at the plat _____ 12	
	Hall making winder shetters 1	
Wednes 3	at the dam _____ 11	
	out sick Jimmy _____ 1	
	Jim Hall repairing the Mill 1	
Thirsdy 4	at the plat & dam 11	
	out sick Jimmy _____ 1	
Friday 5	at the plat _____ 10	
	out sick, raney day _____ 2	
	at the Mill _____ 1	
Saterdag 6	at the plot _____ 11	
	at the Mill _____ 1	
Monday 8	at the plot _____ 11	
	at the Mill _____ 1	
Tuesday 9	at the plat _____ 9	
	at the Mill 1	
	repairing the quarter wagon.. 2	
Wednesday 10	at the dam _____ 9	
	at the Mill _____ 1	
	repairing wagons 3	
	Niger sick _____ 1	
Thursday 11	at the dam 9	
	at the Mill _____ 1	
	repairing wagons 3	
	Nigersick..... 1	
Friday 12	at the dam 9	
	at the Mill 1	
	Makin repairing wagons 4	
Saterdag 13	at the dam 9	
	at the Mill 1	
	Making working Bars & repairing Mill 4	
Monday 15	at the dam 7	
	at the Mills 5	
Tuesday 16	at the Canall 7	
	at the Mills 5	
Wednesday 17	at the dam 7	
	at the Mills 5	
Thursday 18	at the dam 8	
	at the Mills 4	
	at the Shop 1	
Friday 19	at the Mills 4	
	at the. dam 8	
Saterdag 29	at the dam 7	
	at the Mills 4	
	at the Shop..... 1	

Monday 22	at the Mills	6
	rest at the salt works	7
Tuesday 23	at the Mills	6
	at the Salt works	7
Wednes. 24	at the Mills	6
	at the Salt works	7
Thursday 25	at the Mills	6
	at the Salt works	7
Friday 26	at the Mills	6
	at the Salt works	7
Saturday 27	all have Holleday , raney day	
Sunday 28	all well no remarks	
Monday 29	at the Mills went to the Salt works...	4
	in the Shop	2
Tuesday 30	at the Mills	4
	in the Shop	2
Wednesdy 31	at the Mills	4
	in the Shop came home	2

* * * * *

EL DESTINO MILL TABULATIONS, 1863-1865

April the 6th 1863 *tan yarde* Book

6	Got in tan for Mr. Jones	
	10 hides one yearling skin	11
	4 Calf skins	4
	1 dog skin 3 snakes skins	4
6	1 hide 1 yearling skin 2 Calf	
	(with years on)	4
	Little greene Chairs brought to be tand	
	17 beefe hides	17
	Put in soke to day 19th	
May 19	Lepscome 1 hide to tan in soke	1
	Lewsey Bock 3 hides	3
	Horger 2 hides & one Hog skin	3
	grene Chairs one Calf skin	1
	2sheepskins	2
May 3	Walter Jones 13 Coon skins	13
3	Put Chairses hides in Bark today	
5	put one hide in tan for Mr.	
	Dick grene Chairs	1
May 7	put in soke for Little grene Chairs beef	
	hides	2
May 18	recvd of Henry Huter's wife three beefe	
	hides for tanning on shears put in soke	
	today Mark	3
27	recvd of Mrs Murat 2 hides	2
June 2	recvd from Capting Edwards, hides.	3
	4 dog skins	4
	one Colt skin	1

	and 2 half hides _____ 2
	put in soke today and marked by a string
	with a not in the medele
June 4	Mr F. H. Hall one hide Marked with a valve Marked by a double String on the Edge with a Not in the Middle
Saturday 6	put peters hides in Lime today & Mrs. Hales's hides in barke Marked with Double strings Cut on the Edges
June 20	recvd of Mr greene Chairs one hide to tan
June 22	recvd of Richard Story _____ 2 hides to tan Larg yearling skins Marked thus x
	* * * * *

Jonathan Roberson in acc. with G. Noble Jones

1863				
July 16th	Received in Cash	26	75	
Coopers 28	“ Dr. Germany 10 barrels	50	00	
	E Saunders 3 “	15		
	I. Randall 10 “	50		
Oct 31	“ “	50		
	Dr. Edwards 20 “	100		
	Jas Haick 2 “	10		
	Wm R. Swain 11 “	55		
	I. Odum 11 “	55		
	judge Randall 18	90		
	Mrs Cason 5 “	25		
	A. Wetherington 9 “	45	556	75
Lumber				
August 19	G. Atkins _____	17	16	
19	Mrs. Christopher _____	12	70	
9	Anderson _____	4	38	
wool 10	Mrs. Woolf _____	10		
Corn				
Sept 7	Mrs. Hale _____	2	50	
1	Coleman _____	1	25	
	E. Seaver _____	1	25	49 24
July 16	William Moore _____	5		
	Mrs Lipscoim _____	2	60	
18	Cole _____	5		
28	Johnson _____	5		
29	Page _____	9	37½	
	Ernest _____	4	37%	
Oct 10	Mrs Snipes _____	6	00	
	Mrs Lipscom _____	3	75	
Nov 4	Swain 927 feet _____	28	41	
Lumber				
Nov 23	Mr. Anderson _____	30	00	99 41

1863	Brought forward	705	40
Nov 25	Anderson 30 00		
	Received of Alexander		
	Croom this amt for		
	lumber to 20th May.. 108 80	138	80
15th Dec	Anderson 1000 ft lumber	30	
"	Mrs Cason	12	
28	Jas Thompson	12	
1864			
Jan 4	Mrs Swan	20	
"	T. J. Rawls	35	
9	Solomon Sills	9	
10	Mrs Taylor	9	
11	Wooten	9	
	Jas Ward	12	
13	Jas Ward	9	33
16	Rawls	40	00
	John Mc Call	3	04
	Cash for Corn	4	
	Willis Bracher	4	
	Cash for sundries.....	18	62
		1123	39
	Cash from Randall & Lloyd	23	20
		1146	59
	By acc for board 16 75		
	Expenses of mill plan 46 50		
1863	Cash 790 00		
Oct	Cash 250 00		
Jan 25		1103	15
	Cash 50 00		
		1153	15
		1153	15
		1146	59
			\$06 56
	Balance due on above acc	\$6 56	Paid
	to J. Roberson	100	
	redvd \$6		

Account of Grist Mill

		Bushels	Toll
1862	Corn ground	3962	495
1863	" "	6048	755

Account of Saw Mill

1864			
Jan 4th	M. Swan	20	
"	T. J. Rawls	35	
9th	S. Sills	9	
11	Mr Taylor	9	
"	Mr Wooten	9	
"	Mr Ward	12	

13	do	9	33
	Jas Ward	4	62
	I. Christie	22	64
15	Jepe Odum	7	56
16	Mr Rawls	40	
25	O.H.Gadsden	16	36
"	Mr Oliver	3	12
	S. Sils	34	40
Feb'y 24	Mr Paterson	3	20
27	Mr Werick	13	20
29	Mr Salter	115	84
"	Mr Werick	32	88
10	S. Sils	58	10
Mar 26	do	57	60
		\$ 3 0 2	8 5
April	Mr Werick	47	92
9	Mr. Forbes	12	
	S. Sils	56	36
11	Nims	24	
14	T. Leake	15	36
"	O. Gadsden	2	50
16	Salter	224	84
19	T. Leake	49	12
20	J. J. Williams	132	84
<i>Account of Grist Mill¹</i>			
1864	To sundry person	28	
Feb'y 15	" a Traveler	15	
22	" Mr Gray	24	
"	Mr High	22	
19	Mr Gray	22	
29	Mrs Hayes	10	
	Soldiers cornes	20	
March 14	Mrs Lepscomb	10	
	John High	4	
	Mrs Campbell	8	
	Mr Page	6	
11	Mrs Moore	50	
18	Mrs Turner	6	
	Mrs Hamlin	4	
		229	
April 3	E. Jones	17	
	Mrs Davis	20	
6	E. Sever	13	
	Mrs Ward	18	
	John Allen	8	
	Mrs Williams	15	
11	Mrs Williams	5	

¹The account of the grist mill was **given** in bushels.

14	E. Sever	13
12	Mrs Stafford	6
	do	2
	Skipper	7
	Mr Page	16
	Mrs R. Stafford	5
13	M. Tools	12
15	W. Jones	4
16	Mrs Trene	4
	W. Jones	4
20	Mrs Campbell	8
	Mrs Blackington	14
19	Mrs Roark	5
20	John Lewis	10
	Mrs Tucker	2
21	E. Sever	25
	J. High	5
	Wm Moore	10

(The last *instalment* of this series of plantation documents will appear in the **next number of the** QUARTERLY.)